

Regional Conference on Energy

3077. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the agenda of the recent regional conference with South and South-East Asian countries on the energy;
- (b) the details of the outcome;
- (c) whether any document was agreed upon at the conclusion of the meeting;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any institutionalized mechanism for regional energy cooperation has been agreed upon; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) At the 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS) held on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines a special session of energy, to achieve the shared goal of ensuring affordable energy sources for development in the region, was held. Discussion among the 16 Heads of State/Government of the member countries of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand covered issues relating to energy security, renewable and alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation and climate change.

(c) Yes. The Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security was " signed by the 16 Leaders participating in the Second East Asia Summit. A copy of Declaration is enclosed as Statement. (See below)

(d) The Cebu Declaration aims to achieve the following goals:—

- (i) Improve the efficiency and environmental performance of fossil fuel use;
- (ii) Reduce dependence on conventional fuels through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programmes, hydropower, expansion of renewable energy systems and bio-fuel production/ utilisation, and for interested parties, civilian nuclear power;

- (fit) Encourage the development of open and competitive regional and international markets geared towards providing affordable energy at all economic levels;
 - (iv) Mitigate greenhouse gas emission through effective policies and measures, thus contributing to global climate change abatement; and
 - (v) Pursue and encourage investment in energy resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) It was agreed to establish an EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force, based on the existing ASEAN Energy sectoral mechanism. The Task Force will report its recommendations at the next EAS Summit.

Statement

Copy of the CEBU Declaration

CEBU DECLARATION ON EAST ASIAN ENERGY SECURITY
January 15, 2007

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand, on the occasion of the Second East Asia Summit on 15 January 2007 in Cebu, Philippines;

RECOGNISING the limited global reserve of fossil energy, the unstable world prices of fuel oil, the worsening problems of environment and health, and the urgent need to address global warming and climate change;

RECOGNISING that our energy needs are growing rapidly, and will necessitate large-scale investments in the coming decades;

ACKNOWLEDGING that fossil fuels underpin our economies, and will be an enduring reality for our lifetimes;

RECOGNISING that renewable energy and nuclear power will represent an increasing share of global supply;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to strengthen renewable energy development such as in biofuels, and to promote open trade, facilitation and cooperation in the sector and related industries;

HIGHLIGHTING the fundamental need of countries in East Asia for reliable, adequate and affordable energy supplies which are essential for strong and sustainable economic growth and competitiveness;

CONSIDERING further that the First East Asia Summit had agreed to enhance cooperation by promoting energy security;

RECOGNISING the need to pursue energy policies and strategies best suited to each country's national circumstances, which will lead to sustainable development;

NOTING that biofuel and hydropower resources are renewable and as such harnessing these resources is an important aspect of our national energy policies;

REAFFIRMING our collective commitment to ensuring energy security for our region;

HEREBY DECLARE:

To work closely together towards the following goals:

1. Improve the efficiency and environmental performance of fossil fuel use;
2. Reduce dependence on conventional fuels through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programmes, hydropower, expansion of renewable energy systems and biofuel production/utilisation, and for interested parties, civilian nuclear power;
3. Encourage the open and competitive regional and international markets geared towards providing affordable energy at all economic levels;
4. Mitigate greenhouse gas emission through effective policies and measures, thus contributing to global climate change abatement; and
5. Pursue and encourage investment on energy resource and infrastructure development through greater private sector involvement.

And to achieve these goals, through the following measures:

1. Promote cleaner and lower emissions technologies that allow for the continued economic use of fossil fuels while addressing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Encourage the use of biofuels and work towards free trade on biofuels and a standard on biofuels used in engines and motor vehicles;
3. Take concrete action towards improving efficiency and conservation, while enhancing international cooperation through intensified energy efficiency and conservation programmes;
4. Set individual goals and formulate action plans voluntarily for improving energy efficiency;
5. Increase capacity and reduce costs of renewable and alternate energy sources through innovative financing schemes;
6. Encourage collective efforts in intensifying the search for new and renewable energy resources and technologies, including research and development in biofuels;
7. Ensure availability of stable energy supply through investments in regional energy infrastructure such as the ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans ASEAN Gas Pipeline;
8. Encourage recycling of oil revenues and profits for equity investments and long term, affordable loan facilities for developing countries in the region;
9. Explore possible modes of strategic fuel stockpiling such as individual programmes, multi-country and/or regional voluntary and commercial arrangements;
10. Promote clean use of coal and development of clean coal technologies and international environmental cooperation towards mitigating global climate change;
11. Pursue regional or bilateral cooperation through research and development, sharing of best practices, and financing of energy products; and
12. Assist less developed countries in enhancing national capacity building in achieving the above goals.

The necessary follow-up actions to ensure implementation of the above measures, including appropriate reporting, will be undertaken through existing ASEAN mechanisms in close consultations among EAS participants.

ADOPTED in Cebu, Philippines, this Fifteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven, in a single original copy in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam; HAJI

HASSANAL BOLKAIH

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia;

SA,DECJ HUN SEN Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia;

DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO

President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

BOUASONE BOUPHAVANTH Prime

Minister

For Malaysia:

DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar;

GENERAL SOE WIN Prime

Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines;

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President

For the Republic of Singapore; LEE

HSIEN LOONG Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand;

GENERAL SURAYUD CHULANONT (RET.)

Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
NGUYEN TAN DUNG Prime Minister

for Australia;
JOHN HOWARD
Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China;
WEN JIABAO
Premier

For the Republic of India;
DR. MANMOHAN
SINGH Prime Minister

For Japan;
SHINZO ABE
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Korea;
ROHMOO-HYUN
President

For New Zealand;
HELEN CLARK
Prime Minister

Recruitment for American Company 'Signal'

†3078. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether Global Industry had recruited 600 workers in December, 2006 for the American Company "Signal" after taking 20,000 dollars from each worker;

(b)whether it is also a fact that American Company 'Signal' is not paying the workers prescribed payment at the rate of 18 dollars per hour and they are forced to stay in the labour-camps;

(c)whether the Company is threatening to cancel the visas of the workers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.